



Rural Health  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Rural Health  
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<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh>

## North Carolina Telepsychiatry Program

2016 Profile (Data from State Fiscal Year 2016)

### Program Facts

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**\$2.7M**

Annual grant appropriation and carry forward from the General Assembly to NC-STeP

**\$750,000**

Program support in philanthropic funding through the Duke Endowment

**15**

Number of counties served by NC-STeP

**30**

Number of operational NC-STeP Hospitals

**6,790**

Number of assessments conducted by NC-STeP during SFY 2016

**627**

Number of involuntary commitments overturned (IVC)

**24.5%**

Rate of IVC patients who were released after a telepsychiatry consultation

**35**

Number of counties in NC classified as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas

### Overview

The N.C. Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP) was developed in response to Session Law 2013-360, directing ORH to oversee a statewide telepsychiatry program. The program was instituted so that an individual presenting at a hospital emergency department with an acute behavioral health crisis will receive a timely specialized psychiatric assessment via video conferencing technology. The practice of telepsychiatry, through NC-STeP, allows for the psychiatric evaluation of patients, through videoconferencing technology, in emergency departments lacking psychiatric staff. Telepsychiatry is defined as “the delivery of acute mental health or substance abuse care, including diagnosis or treatment, by means of two-way real-time interactive audio and video by a consulting provider at a consultant site to an individual patient at a referring site.”

Source: Session Law 2013-360

Overall, the program has generated cost savings from overturned involuntary commitments, which benefitted state psychiatric facilities, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, Medicare, Medicaid, and many other stakeholders. Specific to state psychiatric facilities, the program has achieved estimated cumulative cost savings of \$11,140,200.

### Return On Investment and Economic Impact

Source: IMPLAN

NC-STeP Expenditures

**\$2,359,237**

+

Created Economic Impact

**\$1,428,165**

=

Total Impact

**\$3,787,402**

Generates

**28**

additional jobs from the economic impact

**\$157,087**

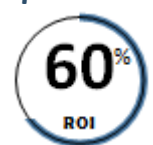
Generated in state and local taxes, which go back into the local and state economy

**\$1,702,661**

In employee compensation impacted from the grant

Each NC-STeP grant dollar has a total economic impact of

**\$1.60**



\*Economic return is estimated to be much greater because improved health outcomes can lead to fewer missed work days, reduced health care costs, and reduced premature morbidity and mortality. Some expenses such as out of state purchases, overhead, and rollover payments are not captured for ROI and economic impact.

### Importance

There are 35 counties in NC that are classified as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Though not designated, there are additional counties that have a very low supply of mental health professionals in proportion to the population.

This use of technology can reduce patients' length of stay in the emergency department (which can last for days in some cases) and overturn unnecessary involuntary commitments, thereby reducing the burden on staff and reducing costs to the state and federal governments, as well as the private sector.

### Grant Expenditures

**\$1.76M**

State Appropriations

**\$598K**

Philanthropic funding From the Duke Endowment



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## North Carolina Telepsychiatry Program

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### Technical Assistance

28 Activities to  
72 Counties

Provided by ORH Staff

### Board Meeting Assistance

9 Activities

### Other Activities:

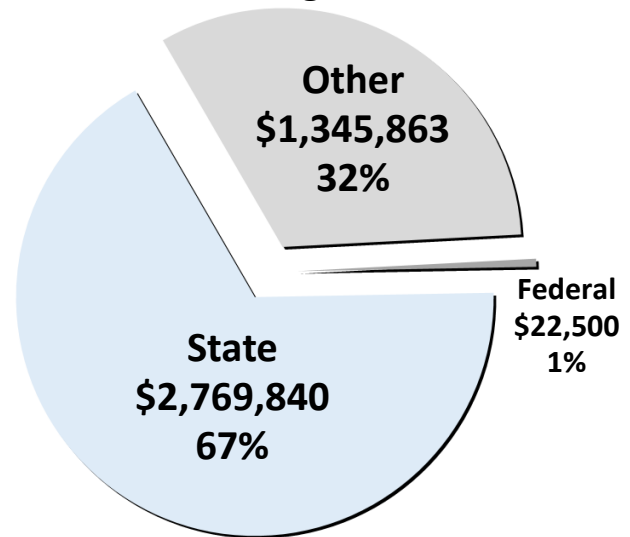
Contract Development  
Community Development

2 Activities

### Site Development Assistance

17 Activities

### Total Program Funding\*



\*Estimate based on budget reorganization.  
Funding also reflects carry forward from SFY 2015

## Program Reach

30

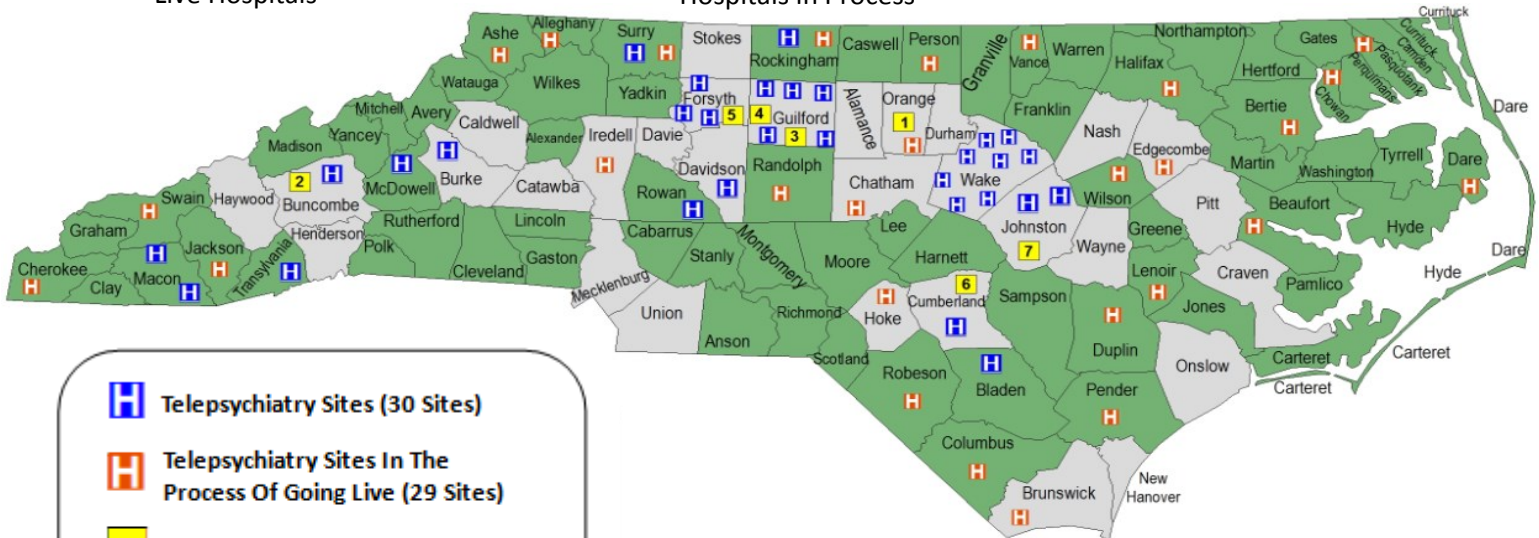
Live Hospitals

29

Hospitals in Process

7

Provider Hubs



Telepsychiatry Sites (30 Sites)

Telepsychiatry Sites In The Process Of Going Live (29 Sites)

Provider Hubs (7 Hubs)

Rural County (70 Counties)

Urban County (30 Counties)

If you have further questions, please contact:

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Nothing Compares<sup>SM</sup>

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